

Cultivating collaboration and innovation in food safety: outcomes of the “2nd EU Food Safety Forum”

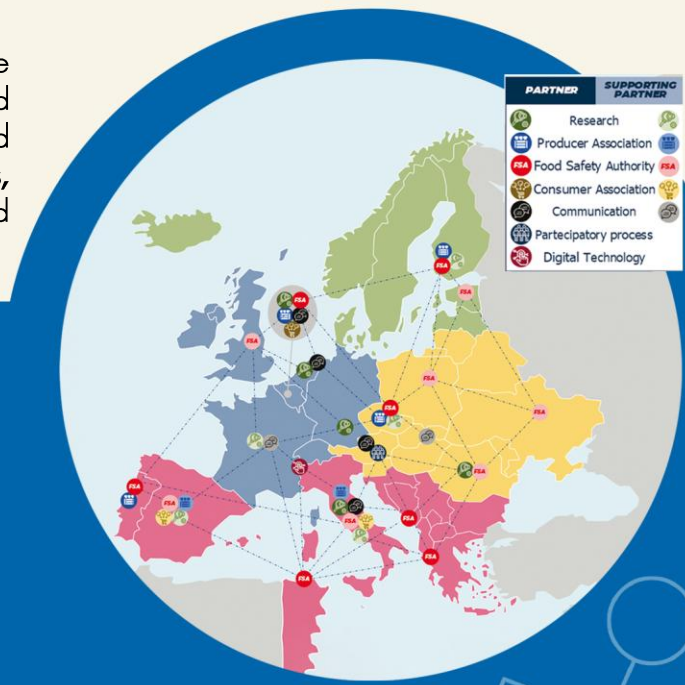
Key insights from the EU FOOD SAFETY FORUM 2024

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BACKGROUND

The **2nd EU Food Safety Forum** built on the success of its first edition, reaffirming its role as a key interface for dialogue among policymakers, researchers, industry, and civil society. The **EU Food Safety Platform members** and participants aimed to foster collaboration, drive innovation, and support the transition towards a **safer, more sustainable, and resilient food system** in Europe. With a strong focus on **science-policy-society interaction**, they addressed pressing challenges and opportunities shaping the future of EU food safety governance.

Strongly committed to be part of and support the transition, the EU Food Safety platform members and stakeholders, supported by 7 EU funded projects and Infrastructures, jointly identified key **leading challenges**, by applying the platform’s consolidated **systemic** and **multi-actor approach**.



EU FOOD SAFETY PLATFORM



Liaisons with EU projects and Infrastructures



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LEADING CHALLENGES

Integration of One Health Principles

There is a need for a cohesive framework that effectively integrates One Health principles across human, animal, and environmental health sectors to address interconnected challenges comprehensively.

Informing Regulatory Pathways

By generating data-driven insights to support a robust regulatory framework that integrates food safety with sustainability efforts fostering effective governance and collaboration among stakeholders.

Data Availability and Sharing

There is still insufficient access to practical tools such as data, harmonized methods and terminology that can facilitate effective implementation of food safety practices across different regions and sectors.

Emerging Threats from Climate Change

The impact of climate change on food safety presents significant challenges, necessitating adaptive strategies to ensure food remains safe under changing environmental conditions.

Combatting Food Fraud

The rise in fraudulent practices in food products calls for innovative technologies and systems to enhance transparency and traceability throughout the food supply chain.

Resilience Against Supply Chain Disruptions

Recent crises (e.g., COVID-19, geopolitical conflicts) have highlighted vulnerabilities in food supply chains. Strengthening risk management, ensuring diversified sourcing, and developing rapid-response mechanisms are critical to maintaining food safety and availability.

Digitalization and AI for Food Safety

The increasing role of AI, machine learning, and big data in food safety requires frameworks for ethical AI use, reliable predictive analytics, and secure data governance to enhance risk assessment, traceability, and compliance monitoring

Public Health Alignment

Ensuring that food safety initiatives align with evolving public health priorities and consumer expectations is crucial for maintaining trust and effectiveness in the food system.

Sustainability and Circular Economy

Support the food systems transformation by incorporating circular economy principles in (novel) food productions, while investigating challenges and developing solutions for potential food safety risks.

Adaptation to Technological Advancements

Keeping pace with rapid technological advancements in food production, processing, and distribution requires continuous updates to food safety measures and risk assessment to ensure the safety of innovations.

Capacity Building and Education

Every individual in the food system plays a vital role in preventing contamination and responding to incidents. Initiatives aimed at educating the public about safe food practices, as well as training programs to share best practices in food safety management with food chain operators are crucial.

Collaboration among Stakeholders

To increase the food safety system's resilience there it is essential to strengthen food safety infrastructures and foster collaboration through strategic partnerships and collaborative platforms. This will ensure timely responses to food safety incidents, creating a network of support that benefits everyone.

